



Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs



For Immediate Release
Nov. 6, 2014

Lisa Aug 502-564-9203
Lisa.Aug@ky.gov
<http://www.veterans.ky.gov>

Sgt. John R. Jones Newest Addition to Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial

*Kentucky Soldier Died in 1971, Remains Identified in 2012,
Name to be Engraved Friday, Nov. 7*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. 6, 2014) At 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 7, the 1,104th name will be added to the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Frankfort.

With exquisite precision, a master engraver from Cave Hill Cemetery in Louisville will carve the name of Sgt. John R. Jones in two places on the base of the iconic monument: on the list of Kentucky's prisoners of war and those missing in action in Vietnam, and in the exact spot on the monument where the shadow of the gnomon will fall directly on Jones' name on the anniversary of the day he died.

"We are adding Sgt. Jones to the monument tomorrow as the closest date possible to Veterans Day," said Jerry Cecil, a member of the memorial's board of directors and a Vietnam combat veteran. "The engraving procedure is too noisy and disruptive to perform during the solemn dignity of the Veterans Day ceremony here."

Sgt. Jones' remains were identified in 2012. According to the U.S. Department of Defense:

“Army Sgt. John R. Jones, of Louisville, Ky., (was) buried Dec. 6, in Arlington National Cemetery. On June 4, 1971, Jones was part of a U.S. team working with indigenous commandos to defend a radio-relay base, known as Hickory Hill, in Quang Tri Province, South Vietnam. When enemy forces attacked the site, Jones and another serviceman took up a defensive position in a nearby bunker. The following morning, Jones was reportedly killed by enemy fire and the other soldier was captured and held as a POW until 1973.

“From 1993 to 2010, joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam (S.R.V.) teams, led by the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), conducted several investigations, surveyed the site and interviewed multiple witnesses, including those involved in the battle. During that time, analysts from JPAC and DPMO evaluated wartime records and eyewitness accounts to determine possible excavation sites. In 2011, another joint U.S.-S.R.V team located human remains in a bunker suspected to be the last known location of Jones.

“For the identification of the remains, scientists from JPAC and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) used circumstantial evidence and forensic identification tools, such as dental records and mitochondrial DNA that matched Jones' mother and brother.

“Since 1973 more than 900 servicemen have been accounted for from the Vietnam War, and returned to their families for burial with military honors. The U.S. government continues to work closely with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover all Americans lost in the conflict.”